

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application prior to this response. Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 14 and 16 have been amended herein. Claims 2, 8, 9 and 13 have been canceled. New claims 19-24 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7, 10-12 and 14-24 will be pending in the application after entry of the amendment presented herein. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-4, 8 and 16-18 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4, 8 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Acharya (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,699). Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

On page 7 of the Office action, the Examiner indicates that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include the limitations of claim 9 and also the limitations of intervening claims 2 and 8. Claims 2, 8 and 9 have been canceled. Claims 3 and 16 have been amended to now depend from claim 1 rather than from canceled claim 2. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than from canceled claim 9.

In view of the above, claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 4 and 16-18 are allowable at least as ultimately depending from allowable base claim 1. Claims 2 and 8, as discussed above, have been canceled.

II. Rejection of Claims 5-7 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Acharya (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,699) in view of Takizawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,706). Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 5-7 are allowable at least as ultimately depending from allowable base claim 1.

III. New Claims 19-24

New claims 19-24 have been added. New independent claim 19 recites the following:

19. A digital image processor for use in a digital camera having an imaging device arranged to output digital images and a memory for storing digital images, the digital image processor comprising:

a preprocessor comprising hardware for preprocessing digital images received from the imaging device and storing the digital images in the memory;

a postprocessor comprising hardware arranged to receive digital images and to postprocess the digital images into a viewable form;

wherein the digital image processor is operable in a first mode in which data corresponding to preprocessed images from the preprocessor are directed to the memory, thereby bypassing the postprocessor; and

wherein the digital image processor is operable in a second mode in which data corresponding to the preprocessed images from the preprocessor are directed to the postprocessor for postprocessing *and data corresponding to postprocessed images from the postprocessor are directed to the memory.*

(italics added)

New claim 19 is a combination of the subject matter of prior claims 1 and 17 plus the following language as italicized above:

and data corresponding to postprocessed images from the

postprocessor are directed to the memory.

This language is fully supported by the application as originally filed with reference, for example, to drawing Fig. 4 and the written specification. No new matter has been added. The following is set forth, for example in paragraph [0055] (beginning on page 10) of the written specification:

[0055] After the uniformity correction has been applied, the received image data may be handled in a variety of ways under the direction of the microprocessor depending upon the desires of a particular camera manufacturer. One operational mode that may be desired is referred to herein as a "capture mode", which rapidly stores digital images in the local memory 311. One appropriate capture mode may contemplate *directly outputting images that have been processed by the uniformity corrector 408 to the local memory 311*. This may be particularly useful when the camera is attempting to take a fast sequence of pictures.

(italic emphasis added)

Thus, image data from the uniformity corrector 408 (which is part of the preprocessor 402) may be directed to the local memory 311.

The following is set forth, for example at paragraph [0060] (page 12) of the written specification:

[0060] When not RGB based, the color corrected digital images are first output to an RGB reconstruction block 424 and then passed to a digital compressor 426. Otherwise, the color corrected digital images are sent directly to the digital compressor 426. Such digital compression techniques include those techniques based upon color space conversion, such as, for example, JPEG. *Once digitally compressed, the compressed image files are then passed to the system bus 404 where, in one implementation, they may be stored in the system memory 314 and/or the local memory 311*. A color pattern data buffer 427 connected to the system bus 404 capable of storing appropriate color interpolation input data is operatively connected to the color interpolator 422. Such color interpolation input data may

include the number of pixels in the image sensor array, the particular CFA used with the image sensor array, as well as any particular image filtering and other appropriate digital image filtering values.

(italic emphasis added)

Thus, compressed image files (from the postprocessor digital compressor 426) may be stored in the memory 311.

From both passages reproduced above, it is clear that the originally-filed application discloses that data corresponding to preprocessed images and data corresponding to postprocessed images may each be directed to the same memory as recited in claim 19.

In the Office action, the Examiner rejects both claims 1 and 17 over Acharya (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,699). Specifically, the Examiner takes the position that applicant's recited preprocessor is met by the Acharya pixel substitution unit 615 and that applicant's recited postprocessor is met by the Acharya conversion module 627. With respect to the limitations of prior claim 17, the Examiner takes the position, on page 5 of the Office action, that the images from the Acharya pixel substitution unit 615 are directed to a memory (i.e., the RAM attached to the pixel substitution unit 615). The Examiner supports this position by referencing Col. 11, lines 5-7 of Acharya, which reads as follows:

and then later, if desired, modified. Further, those RAM tables and other RAM tables may be used to store scaled image data or intermediate result data as needed. Though the

Although Acharya may disclose using the RAM tables to store intermediate data (i.e., using the RAM tables as a type of buffer memory), applicant's new claim 19, as discussed above, additionally requires that the preprocessor and the postprocessor are each capable of directing data *to the same memory*. Clearly, this is neither disclosed nor suggested by either

Acharya or any of the other references of record, considered either alone or in proper combination. Accordingly, applicant respectfully asserts that new claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 20-22 are similar to dependent prior claims 2-4, respectively. New dependent claims 23 and 24 are similar to dependent claims 16 and 18, respectively. New claims 20-24 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 19.

IV. Other Claim Amendments

Claim 12 has been amended herein to correct a minor typographical error appearing therein. Specifically, the phrase "... and the retrieving image data" has been amended to read "and the retrieving of image data". No new matter has been added.

Claim 13 has been canceled herein. Claim 14 has been amended to now depend from claim 12 rather than from canceled claim 13 and to better conform the language of the claim in view of the cancellation of claim 13. No new matter has been added.

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In view of the above, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Re-examination and reconsideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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